

THE BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION

National Novice Qualifying Classes

Guidelines for Organizers

Competitor Qualification

To be eligible to drive as a National Novice in an official Qualifying Class, a competitor must have successfully completed all three phases, with a minimum of a three section marathon, at three affiliated Club events.

Competitors must submit a photocopy of a fully completed competence form to the BHDTA for ratification prior to taking part in a National Novice qualifier.

In addition, the entrant must not have:

- a. Previously competed at a National or Regional Event unless this was in a Novice qualifier or Club class.
- b. Finished in the top 50% at the National Novice Championships.
- c. Won three National Novice Qualifiers although he/she can retain their National Novice status throughout the season in which this is achieved.
- d. Qualified for the National Novice Championships in 2006 or previously.

Contravention of (a) (b) (c) and (d) above will result in disqualification.

Entrants in National Novice qualifiers must be members of BHDTA, but BHDTA Associate or Club Competitor Membership is acceptable. Grooms at qualifying events need not be members of BHDTA, but they must become members to compete at the National Championships. Horses/Ponies in National Novice classes must be vaccinated in accordance with BHDTA rules.

Explanatory Notes

A competitor who qualifies for the National Novice Championship, but does not compete at the National Championship in the year in which they qualify, will be eligible to enter National Novice Qualifier classes in subsequent years until otherwise precluded by (a) (b) (c) or (d) above.

A competitor who wins the class three times at a National Novice Qualifier, whether in one year or over a number of years, will cease to be eligible to compete as a National Novice driver at the end of the year in which the third win is achieved.

Event Organizers are required to submit the list of entries for National Novice qualifiers to the BHDTA Office AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS prior to the date of the competition, so that the office can verify the eligibility of all competitors.

EVENT QUALIFICATION

Events to be included in the programme each year will be National, Regional and applications received from clubs and allocated by Council, normally on the basis of achieving the best geographical spread of events.

Each event will require BHDТА approval of its Venue, the **Technical Delegate**, **Course Designer** and **POJ** before being included in the Programme.

The National Novice Qualifying Classes must be run in accordance with current National Rules, although other classes at a Club Event may run under local rules, if required.

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

Start Fees

Suspended for 2011

Technical Delegate & Course Designer at Club Qualifying Events

The Technical Delegate & Course Designer (who must not be competing in the event) must be approved by the BHDТА, but need not necessarily be a BHDТА-listed T.D. or C.D. Approval is unlikely to be given to anyone who has not attended the BHDТА Club Course Designer's /TD'S Clinic in the current year or in the year prior to the competition at which they are to officiate. This clinic will in future, include a briefing on current requirements for National Novice Qualifiers, to ensure as far as possible, a consistent standard of events. In the interest of safety the post's of TD, CD and Safety Officer must be independent and not be shared by the same person.

Presentation

One Judge from the BHDТА National Probationary List, or an experienced competitor, with at least 5 years experience at National Level is acceptable.

Dressage

(i) At National Events the Dressage Test will be BHDТА Novice test 100 (2011) (Arena 100m x 40m). Regional Events and Clubs may choose to use BHDТА Novice test 80 (2011) (Arena size 80m x 40m) if this is more suitable.

(II) At National Events a minimum of one Judge from list 2 and one Judge from the National Probationary list is required.

(iii) At Regional and Club events there must be a minimum of two Judges of at least BHDТА National Probationary List Standard or one National List Judge together with an experienced Club Judge.

(iiii) One of the above judges may be nominated by the Competitions Committee to submit a report on the Event.

Marathon

(i) The Course must be three sections and a minimum length of 12km in total. There must be 6 to 8 obstacles with a maximum of gates to F.

(ii) A Judge, as described in the Dressage Section, must attend at the start of Section A. If another Judge is available, the Halt should also be attended.

Obstacle Cone Driving

National Novice Qualifier classes will have a maximum of 20 numbered cones. Speed allowed will be 220m/minute, and the clearance between cones will be 165cm.

Qualification for the National Championships.

5 or more in a class, the highest two, disregarding those in the class already qualified, from the first six places.

3 or 4 in a class, the highest place, disregarding those already qualified.

1 or 2 in a class, the higher place, disregarding those already qualified, provided the driver's dressage score is 65 or less.

In order to qualify a competitor must complete all phases without elimination or retirement, and finish with a total penalty score not exceeding the class winners score plus 40%.

(Note: For the avoidance of doubt – If a competitor fails to qualify because they did not achieve a dressage score of 65 or less when there are only 2 competitors in the class, this qualification will not pass on to the next competitor).

SPONSORS

Organisers may be asked to display banners on behalf of class sponsors and also issue invitations to representatives of this sponsor and the Worshipful Company of Saddlers to attend the Qualifier.